

# Brooks recommended for closure

## Rumsfeld, Myers state their case to BRAC commission

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON, May 16, 2005 – As the military confronts the “new demands of the war against extremism and other evolving challenges in the world,” the Defense Department’s recommendations for base realignments and closures are necessary, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld today told the commission considering DoD’s proposals.

Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers testified before the BRAC Commission today. Both men stressed the joint approach taken in forming this year’s BRAC recommendations.

Myers said the emphasis on joint warfighting “improves our efficiency and improves our warfighting capability.”

He also said the recommendations that DoD delivered to the commission last week include an important focus on the reserve components. “The recommendations will help the reserve components modernize, improve their mobilization processes and transform for the 21st century security environment.”

Finally, the recommendations take into account the changed security environment that stresses the department’s homeland defense mission and force protection concerns, the chairman said.

Rumsfeld said the jointness implicit in the recommendations makes it extremely difficult to pull just one base or installation out of a proposal. “The department recognizes that operating jointly reduces overhead costs, improves efficiency and facilitates cooperative training and research,” he said. “And I would suggest that one must be careful about taking a selective look at individual components or pieces of these recommendations without considering how these components or pieces fit into the larger whole.”

Personnel involved in the two-and-a-half-year DoD BRAC recommendation effort sorted through 25 million bits of information in making their appraisals, Rumsfeld said. “They considered some 1,000 different scenarios or approaches, and devoted some 4,000

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*Defense Department photo*  
**Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard Myers testifies before a Senate committee about the Defense Department’s Base Realignment and Closure recommendations at the Senate Hart Building in Washington, D.C., May 16, 2005.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita Schroeder*

**Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, addresses Brooks personnel at a commander’s call May 13. He discussed the Base Realignment and Closure announcements made earlier that morning that recommended Brooks City-Base be closed.**

By Larry Farlow  
*311th Human Systems Wing/PA*

Brooks City-Base was included on the list recommended for closure that was sent to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission May 13. If these recommendations are approved by the BRAC Commission, the following actions will take place.

- The Headquarters of the 311th Human Systems Wing, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, the Air Force Institute for Operational Health, and the Human Systems Program Office, the Air Force Research Lab/Human Effectiveness Directorate, and the Naval Health Research Center Electro-Magnetic Energy Detachment will move to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
- The Air Force Medical Support Agency, the Air Force Medical Operations Agency, the Air Force and DoD Support Elements, the 68th Information Operations Squadron, the 710th Intelligence Squadron as well as the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence will move to Lackland AFB, TX
- The Human Systems Chemical-Biological Program Office will move to the Aberdeen Proving grounds, Md.
- The Army Medical Research Detachment will move to Fort San Houston.
- Finally, the Air Force Audit Agency will move to Randolph.

The DoD recommendations were developed through a very deliberate, thorough, and unbiased process; they represent the DoD’s best recommendation to carry out our mission to support and defend the U.S. and its interests given the threats the nation faces in the future.

The announcement on May 13 was just the first step in the process. Brooks will be visited by commissioners and others in the coming months. Once the decisions become binding, it will take several years to implement them. The BRAC Commission forwards its recommen-

dations to the president in September for his approval before sending to Congress.

“The morale and welfare of Brooks’ people and the continued successful execution of our mission are the top priorities as we work through the BRAC process as a team. We will make communication a priority as well, through various media and future commanders calls, so that everyone here knows what we know at every step” said Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, Commander, 311th Human Systems Wing.

If approved by Congress and signed by the President, commission recommendations become final in November. The initial report states the preliminary move dates for Brooks missions as 2008 to 2009.

Employees who have concerns may call the The People’s Center, located at the base chapel. Telephone 536-3824 and ask to speak to a counselor who can provide support, information and referral services. Employees who wish to make an appointment with Civilian Personnel are asked to call 536-3353. Additionally, the Air Force is providing a staffed toll-free number, 1-888-473-6120, for DoD members potentially affected by the BRAC.

In addition to the toll-free phone number, the Air Force has an informative BRAC Web page at [www.af.mil/brac](http://www.af.mil/brac). There is also a link on the Brooks’ Home Page to the official DoD website at <http://www.defenselink.mil/brac>. As a reminder, all media inquiries should be referred to Public Affairs at 536-3234.

Gen Travis sent this message to all Brooks DoD employees, “Please stay focused on the important work at hand, as regardless of what happens during the BRAC process, the value of our mission is clear and must continue uninterrupted and undistracted. Take care of each other as good wingmen do.”





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#### Discovery Editorial Staff:

**Brig. Gen. Tom Travis**  
311th Human Systems Wing Commander  
**Larry Farlow**

Director of Public Affairs  
**Kendahl Johnson**  
Editor — [kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil](mailto:kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil)  
**Rudy Purificato**  
Chief Writer — [rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil](mailto:rudolph.purificato@brooks.af.mil)  
**Elizabeth Castillo**  
Staff Writer — [elizabeth.castillo@brooks.af.mil](mailto:elizabeth.castillo@brooks.af.mil)

**Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder**  
**Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.**  
**Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart**

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## Remember our military on Armed Forces Day

*The following is an Armed Forces Day message from Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Dominguez and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper:*

“In the first presidential proclamation for Armed Forces Day in 1950, President Truman said the day ‘marks the first combined demonstration by America’s defense team of its progress ... towards the goal of readiness for any eventuality.’

“The theme of that first Armed Forces Day was ‘Teamed for Defense,’ expressing the new unification of all the military forces under a single department of the government — the Department of Defense.

“Through more than five decades our military members — Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines — have teamed with our civilian partners to build the greatest military in the world. This joint team is ‘Teamed for Defense’ like never before and America’s Airmen are seamlessly integral to our joint force.

“More than 25,000 Airmen — active duty, Guard and Reserve — are deployed supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. On the ground, in the air and from space, Airmen bring overwhelming air and space power to bear for the joint team, for our nation, and for our allies in the war on terrorism.

“On the ground, our battlefield Airmen serve alongside infantry and special operations units, directly inte-

grating air and space power. Airmen from 16 different combat support skills are driving trucks, providing convoy security, guarding prisoners and interrogating detainees. Airmen have refocused C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III airlift missions to reduce the number of convoys on Iraqi roads by nearly 350 trucks a day.

“In space, we’re maintaining the continuous flow of communications, surveillance, precision navigation and targeting for the joint team. At home, we continue flying more than 6,200 sorties annually, ensuring the security of our sky.

“Airmen are also providing security and stability operations on the Korean peninsula and counterterrorism support in the Horn of Africa. Following the tragic south Asian tsunami, Airmen flew more than 15 million pounds of food, supplies and equipment into the area.

“On this Armed Forces Day, America pays homage to our military men and women who have served and are serving our country so nobly on many fronts. Our Airmen and their families are extraordinarily committed to a cause much greater than themselves.

“If you wear the uniform of the United States military, be proud. You have earned the respect of a grateful nation.

“Thank you for your sacrifice, devotion and courage. We are honored to serve with you. May God bless each of you, your families and our great nation.”

## ORM: Speeding ... is it really worth it?

By Tech. Sgt. B.L. Meirs

311th Mission Support Group

No, I am not going to bore you with the intricacies of how to implement Operational Risk Management in your job or your life. Why then is ORM in the title? It fits. We are now entering those 101 Critical Days of Summer and I would like to share with you, my account of a small portion of our history here at Brooks City-Base.

Like every father should, I care a great deal about the safety and wellbeing of my wife and our four sons. That same caring stretches past my family and includes the safety and wellbeing of every person working on Brooks City-Base. To me that started long before the “Wingman” program was ever considered here at Brooks.

In February of 1986, my Air Force career brought me to my first duty assignment at the 6906th Electronic Security Squadron (now the 68th IOS). Since then, I have seen many things, and lived to share many events, both good and bad. The following is my personal recollection of one of the events that I wish had not happened.

Several years ago, I witnessed the deafening shots of a twenty-one gun salute for one of our fallen airman.

His life was needlessly cut short due to a motor vehicle accident on Brooks AFB. The accident was at night, involving a speeding Corvette Convertible, which was driven by an activated Air Force Reserve non-commissioned officer. The NCO was showing the Airman what his car could do, when he lost control as he was rounding a sharp turn at a high rate of speed on the back side of the base. The Airman was killed instantly with the impact of the car skidding into a concrete culvert and then slamming into a utility pole which was main electrical service entrance for the base. The driver was airlifted to University Hospital but was not expected to live. He did survive and eventually recovered.

You now have to ask yourself these questions. Is speeding really worth it? Is it worth getting to your destination a few minutes or seconds sooner? Is it worth risking the life of some one you don’t know? Your friend’s life? The life of a loved one or even your own life? Ultimately, It is your call. I would render a guess that the NCO in the preceding paragraph would say “NO!” I am sure that there has not been one day since his recovery, that he has not thought about how that accident has change his own life and ended the life of his friend and brought tears of sorrow to his friend’s family.....and to the eyes of the men and women of Brooks City-Base.

## Avoid ‘Revenge of the Sith’

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

As a movie fan, I am not advocating never watching the new Star Wars movie, “Revenge of the Sith.” I will most certainly catch this flick in all its big screen glory. Instead, I suggest avoiding the long lines at the theater by finding an alternative this weekend.

Die hard Star Wars fans have already seen the movie by the time this article is printed. For the casual fan, however, I recommend avoiding the theater. Instead, drive over to the nearest movie rental shop and look for one of these underrated gems:

1. “Opportunity Knocks” — Chances are you missed this comedy when it played at the theaters 15 years ago. Dana Carvey stars as a con artist who is mistaken for an ace businessman. Saturday Night Live alumnus Carvey is at is best here. This enjoyable comedy is probably not for everyone — only those who enjoy funny movies.

2. “Memento” — If you struggle to rub your tummy and pat your head at the same time then skip this mystery thriller. Guy Pearce plays a man suffering from short-term memory loss, using notes and tattoos to hunt down his wife’s killer. To place the viewer in a similar mental status as the main character, who cannot remember anything, the story is told

backwards. It requires a great deal of concentration, but the thought-provoking payoff is well worth the energy expended.

3. “Somewhere in Time” — Although not a big fan of the so-called “Chick Flick,” there were enough science fiction elements and one fine actress in Jane Seymour to keep me interested. It’s about a man who uses self-hypnosis to travel back in time to visit a famous stage actress. Truly a love story but one that isn’t just about jerking some tears.

4. “Groundhog Day” — This movie is about a cynical weatherman, played by Bill Murray, relives the same day over and over again. This is another science fiction movie hiding behind the guise of being a comedy. But it works and it will have you laughing throughout.

5. “Frailty” — This is one of the creepiest, most suspenseful horror movies I have ever seen. It’s about a good man who suddenly has a vision of an angel that tells him his mission is to destroy “demons.” He goes on a killing spree, making his young sons help him. One son thinks Dad is a hero, while the other sees him as a monster. The movie does a great job of giving the impression of bloody violence without actually showing much of any. It was riveting.

While these aren’t the best movies ever, they are five of my favorites and a good alternative to long movie lines. If they are unavailable, you can always resort to getting a Star Wars fix by revisiting one of the movies in the original trilogy.



# Brooks doctors pioneered AF hyperbaric medicine

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

Modern hyperbaric medicine owes its development to the pioneering work of U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine physicians, a former researcher says, noting they helped create therapies and techniques used today throughout the world.

Dr. Paul J. Sheffield, founder and president of International ATMO at the Nix Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center in San Antonio, provided a history lesson May 5 to a USAFSAM audience. His presentation, titled “Air Force Pioneering Contributions to Modern Practice,” outlined the work of his colleagues that he observed as USAFSAM’s Chief of Aerospace Physiology.

“The Air Force was interested in hyperbaric oxygen therapy from an operational issue involving decompression sickness among pilots,” said Dr. Sheffield. He said the early development of hyperbaric practices had a profound effect on this medical field specialty.

The impetus for developing hyperbaric oxygen therapies in the Air Force was operationally inspired. From World War II to 1959, Dr. Sheffield explained, 18 fatalities were caused by decompression sickness at altitude with another 743 cases impacted by its health-impairing effects. The first successful hyperbaric treatment of a pilot suffering from decompression sickness in 1960 at Langley AFB, Va. prompted the Air Force to create the first large research center at Brooks AFB.

Dr. Sid Leverett helped pioneer hyperbaric studies here, while Dr. Jefferson C. Davis became the founding director of

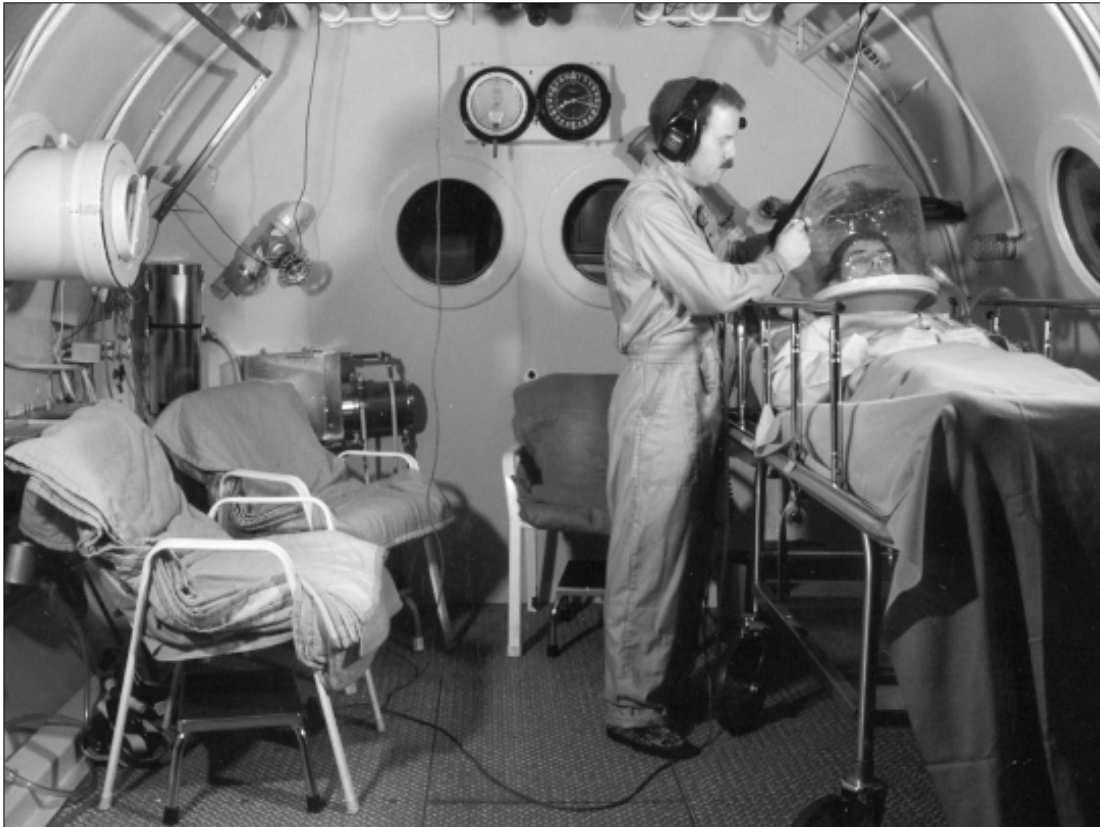


Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**Tech. Sgt. Richard Welch monitors a patient in a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine hyperbaric chambers in the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory.**

the Air Force Hyperbaric Center. Dr. Davis, for whom the Davis Hyperbaric Laboratory is named, had convinced the Air Force Surgeon General to create the center at Brooks to satisfy an operational need for treating war injuries, Dr. Sheffield said. He credits Dr. Davis for developing new forms of hyperbaric therapies that have since helped millions of people. Initially, small operational shipboard chambers were used beginning in 1965. Subsequent treatment and research focused on using a large multi-place chamber. The hyperbaric center acquired in 1974 a second multi-place chamber, built in 1903, that

was used to treat decompression sickness in divers involved in building the Panama Canal. “It became a backup chamber for emergency cases and research,” Dr. Sheffield recalls.

The initial studies conducted over a ten year period involved 100 cases ranging from decompression sickness in divers and pilots to air embolism, gas gangrene and carbon monoxide poisoning. “Patients were brought in by helicopter from throughout the Southwestern United States. Various specialists conducted pulmonary function studies and blood-gas analysis on them,” Dr. Sheffield said.

Researchers here led by Dr. Davis created innovative hyperbaric oxygen therapy devices that included abdomen wound molds for topical oxygen treatment, leg and arm bags and a infant treatment chamber using a modified bassinette. “We had what we called ‘dead end’ patients,” Dr. Sheffield said, referring to Brooks becoming the last, best place on earth to help them save their limbs.

Among the many innovative ideas developed here was the creation in 1964 of LEOFAST, a divers’ alert network consultation service. “Air crews and divers could call into our command post and be patched into physicians on (24-hour) call,” the former USAFSAM colonel said. Consultation providers also had a roster of 38 worldwide hyperbaric chambers that patients would be referred to for treatment.

The Brooks hyperbaric team also created the Undersea Hyperbaric Medical Society’s 12 accepted indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy, developed new oxygen delivery systems for patients using modified aviator masks and introduced Air Force hyperbaric medicine clinical training. In 1978, the first hyperbaric medicine fellowship was created at Brooks for Air Force medical professionals.

“Air Force contributions to hyperbaric medicine is growing and expanding medical practices worldwide,” Dr. Sheffield said. Today, there are more than 100 clinical hyperbaric facilities worldwide, including ten in San Antonio.



A  
LOOK  
at  
BROOKS

What is your  
favorite  
summertime  
activity and  
destination?



**Master Sgt. Matt Roberts  
USAFSAM**

Poolside in a tropical environment with ice cold drinks and good live music.



**Tech Sgt. Jamie Vigil  
USAFSAM**

Camping and fishing at Canyon Lake.



**Staff Sgt. Willie Reese  
USAFSAM**

Going downtown to the San Antonio Riverwalk and I'm looking forward to going to Corpus Christi.



**Nancy Bernal  
USAFSAM**

Swimming, relaxing and taking it easy in Guadalajara, Mexico.



**Roland Trevino  
311th MSG**

Fishing in Corpus Christi or Port Aransas on a boat and surf fishing.





# Brooks gears up for annual picnic

By Elizabeth Castillo  
*Discovery writer*

Brooks City-Base’s annual picnic is quickly approaching and fun times are soon to be had, as the entire Brooks community will soon be able to engage in the many fun-filled activities offered at the event. The theme of this year’s picnic is “Military and Community United” and will be held June 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the picnic grounds.

“It’s always great event,” said Jan McMahon, publicist for the 311th Mission Support Group. “The food is always good and it just brings everybody together.”

There will be numerous food booths serving picnic favorites such as hamburgers, nachos, Frito pie, sausage wraps and many other dishes to satisfy the biggest appetites. Along with the food booths, there will be several drink booths to cool off thirsty guests – with lemonade, iced tea, bottled



water, slushies and some alcoholic beverages being sold. The picnic will supply entertainment for all ages with many activities planned throughout the day, including a trackless train ride that will give children the opportunity to view the picnic from its perimeter. There will also be a moon bounce, pony rides and five carnival-type games with prizes given to winners.

From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., caricature artist and Brooks’s retiree Chuck Brewer will be sketching picnic attendees of all ages for \$5 per picture. Two clowns will be on hand to do magic tricks, balloon animals, and hand out stickers from 1 to 3 p.m.

Picnic goers will be able to kick up their heels and dance to the beats offered by one of San Antonio’s leading music groups. Cactus Country, a five-piece local band, will keep the guests moving as they offer a variety of different types of music – including country, “old time rock and roll,” line dances and even Tejano. Cactus Country will be playing in Pavilion Two from 11:30 to 3:30 p.m.



Photo by Samantha Shieh

**A caricature artist sketches the face of a picnic attendee at last year’s annual base picnic. This year’s base picnic takes place June 10 and will offer food and drink booths, as well as many activities, including pony rides, carnival games and a caricature artist.**

Master Sgt. Craig Blakeley of the Air Force Medical Services Agency will be offering his D.J. services free of charge in support of the Air Force and its deployed troops. His company Atmosphere Entertainment will provide a mix of music from Pavilion One for the duration of the picnic.

Booths are still available for any organizations, tenants or businesses interested in signing up. Contact Nita White at 536-3545 for more information. All are welcome to come and enjoy the many festivities, fun and food provided in order to make this an enjoyable event for “Military and Community: United.”



## Brooks Lodging unveils renovated facilities

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks Lodging unveiled the newly renovated Bldgs. 218 and 220 in a ceremony Monday that showcased amenities that rival that of any national motel chain.

The ribbon-cutting event officiated by Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander, capped a 90-day, \$675,000 project that underscored efficiency and commitment to customer service, Air Force officials say.

“It’s important to the folks who stay here that we have done this,” Gen. Travis said. He explained that no matter what the final outcome is concerning Air Force missions here, the base has an obligation to support its overnight guests.

Built in 1961, Bldgs. 218 and 220 were last renovated in 1998, says Richard Bentley, Brooks general manager of lodging. “We started the project on Feb. 14th. We call it a décor renovation,” Mr. Bentley said.

Funded through a central command lodging fund that all Air Force Materiel Command bases contribute to, a total of 79 lodging units were renovated. The 310-square-foot rooms were refitted with new carpet, wall coverings, mattresses, curtains, bedspreads, art work, lamps, TVs, sofas and chairs.

Also renovated was the facility’s fitness center that included new carpet, wall coverings and a plasma TV. “The old barber shop (there) was converted into a fitness center in 1999 after the barber (Ruben Quintana) died,” Mr. Bentley said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

**Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, joins with Richard Bentley, general manager of Brooks lodging, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.**

To save money, 311th Services personnel provided self-help labor to paint the renovated rooms’ doors, windows and interiors as well as the storage and laundry rooms, Mr. Bentley said.

“We have 90 percent occupancy ten months out of the year. These units are primarily used by USAFSAM (U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine) students,” the lodging manager said.

In the works for next year is the two-bedroom transit lodging in Bldg. 214 that will get a \$110,000 facelift.

## Brooks ‘Youth of Year’ wins Presidential Freedom Scholarship

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Brooks City-Base “Youth of the Year” Stacie Chapoy has won the Presidential Freedom Scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In winning the \$1,000 scholarship, this Floresville High School senior will represent Brooks during a youth summit June 19-25 that will culminate with a briefing on Air Force base teen issues before the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

“She will be among about 90 teens from Air Force bases throughout the world who will participate in a youth summit on teen-related issues on military installations,” said Ron Hayes, teen coordinator for Brooks Youth Services. He said summit participants, historically, select the top three issues affecting teens and make presentations to the Joint Chiefs outlining their solutions to the problems they’ve raised.

“I’m excited about going to D.C. It will be my first time there. Now I have a chance to learn more about our government,” said Miss Chapoy, daughter of Brooks Outdoor Recreation manager Dennis Chapoy and his wife Deborah.



Stacie Chapoy

She earned the scholarship as “Youth of the Year” on the strength of her community service work that included serving as a volunteer for the Elf Louise toy project, Habitat for Humanity, the Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner and the Battered Women’s Shelter.

Influenced by her dad’s 20-plus year active duty Air Force career, Ms. Chapoy plans a career in aerospace medicine. “I want to join the Air Force and become a nurse,” she says, knowing that her scholarship and trip to D.C. has given her a jump start on her future career.



BRIG. GEN. TOM TRAVIS  
311th Human Systems  
Wing commander

# ACTION LINE

## 536-2222

The COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play. If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**. Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

Brooks City-Base Security.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Mission Support Group—		Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Safety.....	536-2111	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
59th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366
Military Personnel.....	536-1845		

## Drug testing program changes affect command

By Kathleen Lopez

Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

Air Force Materiel Command soon will expand its testing of Air Force civilians for marijuana and cocaine use to include detection of amphetamines, opiates, and phencyclidine. In implementing the revised Air Force drug-testing policy, AFMC also will increase the number of random drug tests and validate every test specimen.

The Air Force revised its civilian drug testing policy in December in conjunction with modified federal work place drug-testing guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services.

“Since AFMC is so heavily civilianized, further discussion between AFMC officials and command union representatives was required before the changes could be implemented,” said Mr. John Day, chief, AFMC Civilian Personnel and Programs.

“This change has been in the works since October 2003,” said Lt. Col. Christopher Robinson, manager of the Air Force Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program and the Drug Demand Reduction Program. The Air Force has set aside additional funds through fiscal year 2009 for the testing program, he said.

The civilian drug-testing program applies to civilian Airmen in drug-testing-designated positions, or TDPs. AFMC has approximately 8,900 TDPs. Types of TDPs in AFMC include, but are not limited to, positions involving law enforce-

ment, national security, or public health and safety.

“Air Force officials determine TDPs, which are characterized by safety and/or security responsibilities as they relate to mission accomplishment,” said Mr. Day.

The number of random drug tests now will equal the number of TDPs. Previously, Air Force policy required that only 50 percent of civilian Airmen in TDPs undergo annual random drug testing.

As required by the Department of Health and Human Services, and like all federal agencies, the Air Force now will perform a specimen validity test on every civilian urine sample collected. Validity tests detect adulteration, dilution and substitution of unobserved collections of urine specimens.

AFMC’s civilian Airmen are essential to accomplishing the command’s mission of

delivering war-winning capabilities on time and on cost, said Colonel William Tate, deputy, AFMC Surgeon General. “In turn, we have a responsibility to our civilian work force to provide a safe and drug-free work place,” he said. “It all comes back to being a good wingman and looking out for each other.”

Suggestion to editors: Coordinate with your base personnel and surgeon general’s offices to localize this story and identify local points of contact. Questions concerning civilian drug testing can be answered through your installation’s Drug Demand Reduction Office.

We have a responsibility to our civilian work force to provide a safe and drug-free work place.

Col. William Tate  
AFMC Surgeon General

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

### VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Mondays — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

### PRE-DEPLOYMENT BRIEFING

May 24 — 1 - 2 p.m., Bldg. 537

Mandatory briefing addresses issues pertaining to deployed service members and their families. Pre-deployment briefings are held the last Tuesday of

the month. Appointments are necessary.

### FEDERAL JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP

May 26 — 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn the ins and outs of navigating the Federal Job system. Bring your most recent resume and vacancy announcements or job advertisements you have found. Bring a list of courses you have completed in any recent college or other educational program. This workshop also includes a briefing from Civilian Personnel office.

Call 536-2444 to register



# BRAC recommendations ‘will reshape Air Force’

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Air Force recommendations provided to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission will reorganize that service, making it more capable to address threats to national security, the Air Force’s top civilian told commissioners Wednesday.

“We have presented to you a bold program that will reshape the Air Force, improving our ability to defend the nation and doing so with a smaller, more efficient, effective and less-costly base infrastructure,” Michael Dominguez, acting Air Force secretary, told commission chairman Anthony J. Principi during a public hearing.

Mr. Dominguez, who was accompanied by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper and other senior officials, said the Air Force’s BRAC recommendations would affect 115 of the 154 installations evaluated.

The Air Force has been reshaping itself into a leaner and more capable force since the end of the Cold War, Mr. Dominguez said.

“And, we will become yet still smaller,” he said.

Technological advancements are providing more military punch while allowing the service to reduce its overall size, he said.

For example, the Air Force deployed more than 1,000 B-17 Flying Fortress bombers “to drop 9,000 bombs to destroy one target” during World War II, Mr. Dominguez said. Today, one modern B-2 Spirit bomber “can engage 80 targets with 80 bombs in all weather with greatly increased accuracy.”

New aircraft slated to enter the Air Force inventory in the near future will be even more combat capable and “will fly longer” between downtimes for scheduled maintenance, Mr. Dominguez said.

The Air Force wants to consolidate, close or realign those installations that do not fit into the air and space expeditionary force concept, he said.

(The AEF) draws small, pre-defined pieces from different Air Force units and fashions those pieces into provisional, or expeditionary, squadrons and wings” that are deployed for overseas combat missions, Mr. Dominguez said. The stateside bases would perform their normal operations while maintaining a high state of

readiness to support wartime contingencies, he said.

The AEF concept also serves the needs of joint warfighters, he said. Its modularity “allows us to package our forces into combat units tailored specifically to the needs of the combatant commanders.”

The Air Force’s BRAC recommendations recognize the need to defend the American homeland from threats presented by terrorists or other potential enemies, Mr. Dominguez said. Therefore, he said his service’s recommendations “preserve the air sovereignty alert mission.”

Mr. Dominguez said the Air Force values the partnership among its active, Guard and Reserve pilots and crewmembers. The BRAC recommendations will position the reserve components “for leading roles in a variety of emerging, in-demand, warfighting missions.”

And, the fact the United States remains engaged in a war against terrorism “makes this base realignment and closure an imperative,” Mr. Dominguez said.

The Air Force recommends 10 base closures and 62 realignments, General Jumper said. The



Photo by R. D. Ward

**Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers (left), U.S. Air Force, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld talk with reporters in the Pentagon about the process used by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission on May 12, 2005. Rumsfeld acknowledged it was a contentious undertaking with feelings running high in many communities and said the decisions were well thought out and necessary for the future well being of the U.S. military.**

proposals “will ‘right size’ our force,” he said. As a result, Air Force fighter units will be reconfigured and upsized to 18 to 24 aircraft per squadron.

Air Force units will also be “placed in higher military-value settings” and located “closer to appropriate ranges for operational missions,” General Jumper said.

The estimated net savings envisioned for the Air Force as a

result of recommended base closure and realignment actions totals more than \$14 billion over 20 years, General Jumper said.

The Air Force arrived at its BRAC recommendations after making some “tough decisions,” General Jumper said.

However, “the important gains in warfighting effectiveness and the savings that we will be able to reinvest in combat capability outweigh those concerns,” he said.





# Brooks bionvironmental engineers honored

By Elizabeth Castillo  
*Discovery writer*

Brooks City-Base has much to celebrate after being awarded three of seven annual Bioenvironmental Engineering (BEE) awards. The BEE Awards are given to Air Force bioenvironmental engineer officers, enlisted personnel, Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard in recognition of their achievements and significant contributions in the bioenvironmental field. A team of bioenvironmental engineers in the Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Analysis divisions received the Sheffield Chalice Award in honor of their services in all bioenvironmental areas and for significantly contributing to the Air Force’s operational mission. These two Air Force Institute of Operational Health divisions



Tech. Sgt.  
Michelle Getman



Major  
Paul Pirkle

have been actively involved in their mission and have successfully evaluated operational health risks to 300,000 garrisoned and deployed warfighters, assessed environmental and occupational risk factors and devised health and cost-based risk reduction strategies that impacted over 100 field units. “I’m just thrilled that they are finally being recognized for everything that they’re doing to help out the Air Force mission,” said Lt. Col. Lynn Borland, chief of the Environmental Analysis Division.

AFIOH’s Maj. Paul Pirkle was awarded the outstanding field grade bioenvironmental engineer of the year award in honor of his many contributions and accomplishments, including writing an AFMS Human Weapon System tactical doctrine to sustain deployed Airmen. Tech. Sgt. Michelle Getman of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine was awarded the outstanding non-commissioned officer bioenvironmental engineer of the year award. She has successfully trained over 225 deploying members on chemical warfare and water sampling equipment. “She’s an extremely hard worker and is definitely deserving of this award,” said Master Sgt. Michael Middleton, who nominated Sergeant Getman for the award. Congratulations to all Brooks’s award recipients.



## BROOKS BRIEFS



### ‘Brave Men Cooking’ contest

The San Antonio Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated (SAC-TAI) is hosting its First Annual “99 Brave Men Cooking” Contest on July 9 at 6 p.m. at Kelly USA Hangar 1610. This unique event gives up to 99 brave gentlemen a showcase for their culinary talents and skills with an opportunity for prizes and fame, while raising funds to support the SAC-TAI annual Educational Assistance Awards. Entry fee is \$25 for individuals and \$100 for each group, with cash and door prizes and trophies. Tickets are also available for dining guests of this formal event. For more information, contact Staff Sgt Michelle Mitchell at 536-5748 or visit [www.sactai.com](http://www.sactai.com).

### Hockey league forming

Hockey enthusiasts will get the chance to “strut their stuff” as a men’s ice hockey team is in the works. Brad Barrier of Randolph Air Force Base is forming a men’s hockey team that would include personnel from Brooks, Lackland, and Randolph AFBs. The team would play at Northwoods Ice Center in a non-competitive recreation league in order to keep up their game, stay in shape and have a good time. Summer leagues begin the first week of June and another will begin in the fall. “The goal is to eventually have teams from each base or facility that can compete in the local league or leagues of their own,” Mr. Barrier said. The fees to join will range from \$150-\$350. Anyone interested in joining the league, should call Brad Barrier at 565-4283.

### Change in testing window

Beginning in September, all senior master sergeants competing for promotion to chief master sergeant will test on the supervisory examination during the second week of the month. For the next cycle, the testing window is Sept. 13-16. The testing cycle will no longer be conducted directly after the Labor Day holiday weekend.



# NASA astronaut presents ‘space gift’ to USAFSAM



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brandy Bogart

**NASA astronaut Dr. Lee Morin presents a patch he wore into space to USAFSAM's commander Col. Courtney Scott Jr.**

**By Rudy Purificato**  
*311th Human Systems Wing*

It traveled to the International Space Station and survived countless earth orbits. Now it's back home, thanks to a NASA astronaut who made a special trip here to return government property belonging to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

Dr. Lee Morin presented a USAFSAM patch he wore into space to the school's commander, Col. Courtney Scott Jr., during a May 4 ceremony. The patch is the first 'space object' in the school's artifact collection, says Col. Scott, who noted that it will be permanently displayed in a trophy case.

"It was part of my PPK, Personal Preference Kit, that we are allowed to take on the space shuttle," said Dr. Morin, referring to the patch that made the April 2002 trip into space aboard the shuttle Discovery.

Capt. Matthew Waack, a Navy physician detailed to USAFSAM's Aeromedical Consultation Service in Building 100, gave the patch to Dr. Morin. "He tore it off his shoulder and asked me to take it on my next mission," said the astronaut, who is also a U.S. Navy captain.

Dr. Morin conducted a series of presentations at Brooks in conjunction with the patch ceremony and a speaking engagement the day before at the 4th Annual Trilateral Technology Summit in San Antonio.

"He gave a super presentation to the RAM (Residency in Aerospace Medicine) students. He spoke about his experiences in space and about space medicine," said Col. Scott.

Dr. Morin also presented a power point presentation in Bldg. 180 about his shuttle mission that delivered a 13-ton, 475,000-part S-Zero truss that has become the International Space Station's main power substation. The presentation, featuring a space fantasy theme, focused on the difficulty of building a space station and problems associated with establishing a moon base.

Dr. Morin, who earned a doctorate in microbiology, was selected for the astronaut program shortly after graduating from the U.S. Navy Residency in Aerospace Medicine (RAM) course in Pensacola, Fla. He recently returned to duty as a NASA astronaut after completing a U.S. State Department tour as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science.

## First quarter reenlistments

**Brooks congratulates the following members for their continued commitment to serve our great nation. The following Airmen assigned to Brooks reenlisted during the first quarter of 2005:**

- Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Murphy — AFCEE
- Master Sgt. Robert Zapata — AFMSA
- Tech. Sgt. John Ebbrecht — 68 IOS
- Tech. Sgt. Douglas Price — 311 MSG
- Tech. Sgt. Chris Valadez — USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt Eric Banks — AFMLO
- Staff Sgt Michele Kemple — 311 MSG
- Staff Sgt Carlos Labrador — USAFSAM
- Staff Sgt Trisha Podsiadlo — AFIOH
- Staff Sgt Shakira Ramos — 311 HSW
- Staff Sgt Kristine Robin — AFMSA
- Senior Airman Emmet Butler — 68 IOS
- Senior Airman Khia Dupree — 311 MSG
- Senior Airman Timothy Heggedahl — 68 IOS
- Senior Airman Brenda Villarreal — AFIOH





PAMPERED SPOUSES



Photo by Kendahl Johnson

Spouses of Brooks City-Base personnel receive free haircuts at the annual Spouse Appreciation Day at Hangar 9 May 13. In addition to the haircuts, spouses were treated to facials, manicures, lessons on making Oriental food and were served a delicious lunch. Sally Travis, wife of the 311th Human Systems Wing commander Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, made opening remarks and taught a class in rubber stamping.

Community College  
of the Air Force:  
Spring Graduates

U.S. Air Force  
School of Aerospace Medicine

Master Sgt. Gladys Wolff  
Tech. Sgt. Heidi Bengé  
Tech. Sgt. Krisanna Brothers  
Tech. Sgt. Michelle Getman  
Tech. Sgt. Jason Giles  
Tech. Sgt. Robert Gudgel  
Tech. Sgt. James Lehman  
Tech. Sgt. Julie Tait  
Staff Sgt. Gerardo Gomez  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Guerrero  
Staff Sgt. Bobbie Hamilton  
Staff Sgt. Louis Martinez  
Staff Sgt. William Reid  
Staff Sgt. Gretchen South  
Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Woodland

Air Force Research Laboratory

Master Sgt. Ronald Craft  
Master Sgt. Edward Graham

AF Institute for Operational Health

Staff Sgt. Luz Ortiz  
Staff Sgt. Jose Parada-Villegas  
Staff Sgt. Tina Robinson

68th Information Operations Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Lewis Jones  
Staff Sgt. Gene'a Heise  
Staff Sgt. Sandra Miko  
Senior Airman Nicholas Kippen  
Senior Airman Jonathan Lanning  
Senior Airman Grayson Gokee  
Senior Airman Shana Roberson

Air Force Medical Services Agency

Senior Master Sgt. James Teige



Photo by Staff Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Col. Laura Alvarado, vice commander of the 311th Human Systems Wing, presents a certificate to CCAF graduate Staff Sgt. Bobbie Hamilton, recipient of the Pitsenbarger Award.

710th Information Operations Flight

Staff Sgt. Michael Weeks

311th Medical Squadron

Tech. Sgt. TSgt Vincente Navejas  
Staff Sgt. SSgt Danielle Butler  
Staff Sgt. SSgt Denisse Portunato  
Alexandria Stapelkamp

311th Mission Support Group

Master Sgt. Laurie Olerich  
Senior Airman Erica Hernandez  
Benjamin Hysmith  
Marlon Paredes

Human Systems Group

Tech. Sgt. Brian Smith  
Mario Rios

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL GRADUATES



# FEATURE



Brooks  
Personality  
PROFILE



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.



# Rumble and Tumble

By Kendahl Johnson

Discovery editor

For two base employees, a job at Brooks City-Base's Air Force Research Laboratory is just one of several common bonds. They also have the same doctoral degree, the same passion for the sport of rugby and even the same last name. But that's not by coincidence – the researchers just happen to be married.

Brooks was the first active duty assignment for Capt. Andy McQuade, who works in AFRL's Warfighter Fatigue Countermeasures Branch. He spent two years working for the Systems Program Office before transferring to the AFRL six months ago. Dr. Jill McQuade also works for the AFRL, researching the human effects of radio frequency radiation. She was hired at Brooks in 2003 as a contractor and before landing a civil service position in January. But the couple didn't meet in the research lab; it was their educational path that initially brought them together.

Capt. McQuade grew up in Baltimore, Md. He decided early on that he wanted to go to the Naval Academy, which wasn't too far from home. He pursued that path, taking it as far as possible before a color vision test forced a different path. "They said,

'Did you know you were color blind?' I replied that I didn't and they said, 'Well, you can't attend the Naval Academy.' So that was the end of that," he said.

The misfortune forced him to consider different educational and career options. He had an opportunity to attend West Point, but decided the army wasn't what he wanted to do. Instead, he competed for and won an AFROTC scholarship to the Virginia Military Institute where he graduated with a degree in biology in 1997.

As his commissioning into the Air Force grew imminently closer, he struggled with his career decisions. "I had no idea what I was going to do," he said. "I couldn't fly because of the color blindness issue. So I decided to keep my options open." His aerospace instructor urged him towards graduate school. Under the Air Force's educational delay program, he applied and was accepted into a Ph.D. program at the University of Cincinnati. It was a five-year program in neuroscience and it would be where he would meet his future bride.

Dr. Jill McQuade grew up in Ohio, graduating from Dublin High School. She stayed in Ohio for her undergraduate work, attending Bowling Green State University, where she earned a degree in biochemistry. Following graduation, she was accepted into the same doctoral program as Andy at the University of Cincinnati.

It was during those five years that the couple met and eventually fell in love. "Lack of any better options," Jill said, gently chiding her husband. "There were five of us in the program total. There were two other people about our age and neither of them spoke English very well. There was an older woman who had kids our age and then the two of us. We just sort of gravitated to each other – hanging out and studying

with each other." They were married in June of 2000.

The duo spent a lot of time together during the five years they spent earning doctoral degrees. "Literally, the only time we didn't spend together was when he was playing rugby," Jill said. "I let him have his rugby time." But she would watch him play and decided it looked like a lot of fun. Once their classroom work was completed and they were doing thesis work and spending less time together, she started practicing with the men's rugby team.

"I spent two years practicing with the guys before I ever played a game or formed a woman's team."

Rugby has since become an integral part of the McQuades' lives. He plays for the local men's club team, while she plays for the women's team, and they are both team presidents. While other couples take typical vacations, their trips are always rugby oriented. Most recently, they traveled to Ireland where Capt. McQuade played in an international tournament.

"Everything we do is rugby centered," Jill said. In fact, their passion for rucks, mauls and scrums has earned them the nicknames of Rumble and Tumble. "I'm not sure it's fair, but he's Rumble and I am Tumble," she said.

The perception by Americans is that rugby is a brutal sport, played without pads with no stoppage of play for bloodied participants. Capt. McQuade, who is one of the top players in the Air Force and a member of the Air Force rugby team, says that this is a misperception. "Hits in American football are much harder than in rugby. The force is much greater than you'd ever encounter on the rugby pitch."

Jill agrees that the brutality of rugby is a misperception and that the sport is not dangerous. "Knowing the physics of the game and proper techniques protects you from getting hurt," she said. "Even if you are smaller, you can know technique and use your opponents size to an advantage." She

would know. Weighing in at just 120 pounds, she is often one of the smallest players on the pitch. "I get my bumps and bruises, but I am a real scrappy player. If you are small, you

I get my bumps and bruises, but I am a real scrappy player. If you are small, you have to be shifty.

Dr. Jill McQuade  
Air Force Research Laboratory

have to be shifty."

Although they agree that the popularity of rugby in the United States will likely never surpass the popularity of football, basketball or even soccer, they feel that rugby is making a slow comeback in popularity, particularly catching on among former collegiate athletes.

"Some athletes are gravitating to the sport, particularly college football players. Traditionally, former collegiate football players go on to play flag football or ultimate Frisbee, which doesn't capture the essence of what they were used to in college. Rugby is a contact sport and it would do that."

The pair said they will continue to play rugby as long as their bodies permit it. They have a rugby trip to New York planned for August. Andy will continue to play for the Air Force team, a team that has won the service academies championship two of the last three years. Although plans for a family might keep Jill off the pitch for at least nine months, it might not be much longer than that. "I've had friends who had children and a month later they were back on the field."

Q&A

FOR MORE ABOUT  
THE MCQUADES,  
SEE PAGE 20





## FEATURE

# Holocaust survivor visit Brooks

**Dr. William Samelson visited Brooks City-Base to discuss the horrors of the Holocaust. His address focused on his family's ordeal to survive Adolph Hitler's attempted genocide.**

**By Rudy Purificato**

*311th Human Systems Wing*

The crowd that packed the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine auditorium May 5 sat in stunned silence as Holocaust survivor Dr. William Samelson described the horrors of Nazi aggression that claimed the lives of his family.

The award-winning author and Boerne, Texas, resident was keynote speaker for the Brooks Holocaust Remembrance Committee's "A Day of Remembrance." The Polish-born writer was among few survivors from a European population of more than six million Jews who were killed in German concentrations camps during World War II. His address, chronicled in his book *One Bridge to Life – A Personal Memoir*, focused on his family's nightmarish ordeal to survive the terror of Adolph Hitler's murderous policy of genocide.

"There were 1,300,000 children, including my sister, killed," said Dr. Samelson, his voice wavering. The flower of a generation exterminated by the Nazi regime like so much garbage, he conveyed. Perhaps lost forever among the victims, he suggested, was the one person who would have found a cure for a fatal disease that today remains incurable or the individual gifted enough to have magnificently composed a great symphony that no one will ever hear.

His presentation's theme was that of a people at first in collective denial of their

eventual fate and the faith that sustained many of them through the darkest days of their lives.

"The general belief was that Germany wouldn't dare invade Poland," he said. WWII began when Poland was invaded on Sept. 1, 1939. Dr. Samelson was 11 years old at the time. His family was Hasidic Jews, devoutly orthodox in their faith. "In Hebrew, Hasidic means 'saint,' devoted to the study of the Torah," he explained.

The Polish people had dug municipal zigzag trenches designed as bomb shelters. Before the air raid sirens wailed, German Stuka dive bombers had claimed thousands of lives. "We didn't reach the trenches. Many people were buried in them afterwards," he recalls, remembering the frenzy, panic and carnage. "It was the first time in my young life that I had experienced death. Mothers holding babies, laying there in pools of blood. It was hell."

He admits questioning his grandmother about God allowing these terrible things to happen. He accepted her advice: "You must have faith. The Lord's will be done." It was faith that helped him prevail, despite losing his mother and sister to the fate that awaited them in the 'death camps.' "Faith is a very important aspect of human life. You can hate, but it fades. Faith no one can take away. Life and your mental state depend upon it."

He would not see his father, a tailor conscripted into the Polish Army, until after the

war. His father spent three and half years in a Soviet Gulag (slave labor camp) in Siberia. He and other members of his family were imprisoned in various concentration camps.

Hell on earth began for him shortly after the German army invaded his homeland. "As children we ran after the marching soldiers. They were robust, healthy looking. They were very friendly. They threw candy at us." His spirits soared when he read on their belt buckles the words "God is with us," located just above an eagle clutching a swastika. "I told my grandmother what I had seen. I said 'these people are good people. They believe in God'."

They had all hoped for humane treatment. What they got were occupation units that specialized in murder – the Gestapo. "They were sent into villages to search for groups of Jews," Dr. Samelson said. Their first targets were Hasidic Jewish men. Of Poland's 33 million people, 3.3 million were Jews of which 90 percent were Hasidic. Many of them never made it to concentration camp crematoriums. The SS troops gassed entire families in specialized vans. The bodies were dumped in mass graves. "Those who escaped told us about it, but we didn't believe it."

Polish Jews not summarily executed were herded into ghettos, small enclaves surrounded by barbed wire, armed guards and attack dogs. Eventually they were transported to places such as Treblinka, Dachau and Auschwitz. They were coaxed out of their ghettos to death camp trains by loud speaker trucks that played the music of Mozart and Wagner. "A kind announcer told us we were going to a better place," Dr. Samelson recalls, adding, "This is why the myth exists that



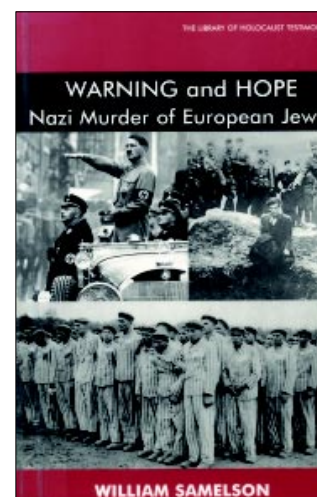
**Holocaust survivor Dr. William Samelson**

Jews went to their death as sheep. It's false."

The prevailing view among the Jews was to not make trouble for their enemy. Trouble, however, took many forms. He recalls standing in front of a Gestapo officer, violin case in hand. "He asked me, 'Can you play, Jew?'" He nodded, and then began playing German and Austrian music. "As cruel assassins that they were, they were sentimental about their music." The impromptu concert was brief. "All of a sudden he ripped the violin from me and broke it to smithereens on my head."

He and his brother were sent to Buchenwald concentration camp where they worked

as slave laborers handling powdered phosphorous used to make incendiary bombs. He would not have survived had it not been for the conscience of a Gestapo foreman who left food for the starving Samelson in the pocket of his coat.



**The cover of "Warning and Hope," a book written by Polish-born author Dr. William Samelson.**

That one act of kindness did little to assuage his hatred. "I distrusted everyone. I didn't know if I was capable of loving anyone." He credits the American army and a post-war academic tutor for saving his body and soul, respectively.

"I'm a whole human being again, an integral part of society that had rejected and abandoned me. I will continue to do so until my last breath."



*Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.*

**Dr. William Samelson visits with the commander of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Col. Courtney Scott Jr.**





# Brooks child care providers honored

By Rudy Purificato  
311th Human Systems Wing

A trio of four-year-old singers, who had enough confidence and encouragement to sing the National Anthem from memory, underscored the important role Brooks child care providers play to early childhood development that was recently expressed in a ceremony honoring them.

Their contributions were officially recognized May 6 by Col. Laura Alvarado, 311th Human Systems Wing vice commander, when she presented 32 certificates of appreciation during a Brooks Child Development Center ceremony.

“We entrust our children to these providers who take care of our brain trust of the future. They are among 2.8 million people who’ve dedicated their lives to taking care of America’s children,” Col. Alvarado said.

In its second year at Brooks, the ceremony was held in conjunction with National Provider Appreciation Day. The national celebration was inaugurated in 1996 by New Jersey volunteers to celebrate the contributions made by child care providers and educators. The annual event, historically, is held on the Friday before Mother’s Day.

“We have a total of 26 care providers we call program assistants. They take care of approximately 73 children,” said Mary Cline, Brooks CDC director. She said the CDC here is certified by the Department of Defense and is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

“We have a veteran crew that has over 500 years of combined experience,” Mrs. Cline said. The team that Col. Alvarado honored in-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

**A trio of four-year-olds sang the National Anthem at a recent child care provider appreciation ceremony at Brooks City-Base. The event honored a team of 26 Brooks child care providers.**

cludes Mrs. Cline, Anu Attreya, Ampara “Pinky” Fuentes, Sandy Bender, Ron Hayes, Josefina Chavez, Barbara Kelly, Feletia McLaurin, Dee Dillard, Christin Dunn, Maria Fuentes, Gloria Gaitan, Linda Gonzales, Patty Hanson, Trevor Harrison, Irma Lopez, Irma Martinez, Deborah Mason, Sherrie Medina, Norma Monrreal, Bertha Montoya, Kathy Moore, Rachel Morin, Sylvia Pena, Fay Stiefel, Christina Traeger, Maria Trevino, Rosetta Wright, Tanya Bell, Jeanie Smith, Yolanda Phillips and Gloria Reitzer.

## HULA AUWANA



Photo by Elizabeth Castillo

**In honor of Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month, Airman Melissa Perez (left) of the 311th Medical Squadron and Jessica Grant perform a traditional Hula dance at the kick-off ceremony held May 11 at Sydney’s.**





# All Air Force civilians benefit from AFMC’s goal-day effort

By Robert Ely  
*Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs*

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH - Air Force policy leaves no doubt that commanders can give time-off awards to civilian teams for achieving goal-day metrics; however, feedback to the Personnel Directorate at Air Force Materiel Command headquarters indicates that some misunderstanding about the Command goal-day policy still exists.

AFMC goal days reward military and civilian Airmen with paid time off when as a team they collectively meet or exceed established goals and metrics. Brooks City-Base has earned two goal days this year: one coming up May 27 and one in January designated in conjunction with Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

When AFMC goal days were established in May 2004, Air Force guidance restricted granting civilian employees - or civilian Airmen which, is the term AFMC commander Gen. Gregory Martin prefers — compensated time off for meeting or exceeding goal-day metrics. Commanders who declared a goal day could authorize compensated time off for military Airmen, but could only encourage civilian Airmen to use normal leave or comp time.

That changed in September 2004 when, as a result of an AFMC initiative, the Air Force published a change to the Air Force Instruction about managing the

civilian recognition program. The change allows commanders throughout the Air Force to give civilian Airmen who contribute as part of a team paid time off as an incentive award.

Major AFMC organizations developed their own criteria for earning a goal day, but generally, goals have been established in four areas: mission performance, internal management, professional conduct and fitness, and community service.

Because of point systems used by many commanders to score performance, organizations may not need to reach all goals in all areas. Earning a goal day, however, is far from automatic.

“We have reviewed the results and while we met some of our goals, we fell short in others,” General Martin wrote in a February e-mail to the headquarters senior staff. “Based on these results, HQ AFMC did not earn enough points for a goal day.”

General Martin cited delinquent government travel card bills, staff duty rosters that hadn’t been updated and one driver stopped for driving under the influence of alcohol as the deal breakers. The result was the headquarters work force didn’t receive a goal day in conjunction with Presidents’ Day weekend.

General Martin put the word out May 12, however, that headquarters had earned enough points for a goal day tacked onto the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

A Public Affairs review of practices at AFMC centers and wings found that the headquarters experience generally mirrors the field’s. The review was informal, not a quantitative survey.

For example, the 96th Air Base Wing at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., earned its last goal day April 1 by having no DUIs, meeting the pass rate for physical training requirements, and meeting all administrative suspenses. “Each squadron or staff agency is judged separately,” said Ms. Lois Walsh, wing deputy PA director. “So, one squadron could have a goal day even if another squadron in the wing doesn’t. Each office tracks these areas and reports their progress a week prior to the potential goal day.”

The wide range of goals commanders choose to, and in some cases, must emphasize was evident in the Rev-Up article. The center actually achieved 100 percent on-time delivery of Programmed Depot Maintenance aircraft, and it reduced DUIs by more than 50 percent during the first half of the fiscal year.

But at Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center, the commander doesn’t use a point system. Four goals must be met or exceeded. So although the center reduced safety-related injuries from 2004, the decline wasn’t enough. And for the fourth goal, 22 percent of scheduled training seats went unfilled.

The review of field practices and policies also revealed that at least one center

has never had a goal day. It’s disappointing, no doubt, for members of any unit when they don’t earn a scheduled goal day opportunity. Yet the review of field practices indicated people widely understand goal days are not an automatic entitlement.

As one respondent, who preferred not to be named, put it, “The point is that goal days should be hard to meet.” Or to say it another way, as General Martin did in one of the documents required to achieve Air Force approval for granting civilian Airmen team time-off awards, “It’s a great feeling to meet a goal and be rewarded for that performance.”

Personnel guidance notes that goal days are just one of several tools available to commanders to recognize and motivate both civilian and military Airmen. Individual organizational commanders must actively decide if the time-off recognition is warranted. For more information about the AFMC goal day policy, contact the local base Civilian Personnel office.

## WING GOAL DAY

May 27th

**Personnel of 311th Human Systems Wing organizations earned a May 27 goal day. It is the second earned goal day of 2005.**



“RUMBLE”



**FULL NAME/RANK:**  
*Capt. John-Andrews Morrison  
McQuade (Andy)*

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**  
*Chief, Fatigue Neuroscience Team  
Air Force Research Laboratory*

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:**  
*I research the central  
mechanisms of fatigue*

**BIRTHDAY:**  
*Sept. 29, 1975*

**HOMETOWN:**  
*Baltimore, Md.*

**FAMILY STATUS:**  
*Married*

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**  
*“Work hard. Play hard.”*

**HOBBIES:**  
*Rugby, SCUBA diving, electronics*

**PET PEEVE:**  
*Overzealousness*

**I JOINED THE MILITARY  
BECAUSE:**  
*As a kid visiting the US Naval  
Academy, I decided the military  
was a place for me.*

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**  
*Try to establish myself as a  
respected Air Force scientist*

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**  
*A successful military career, a  
happy family and a really big TV.*

**IF I WON THE LOTTERY:**  
*I would invest some, buy all the  
electronics that I’ve been wanting  
and ensure that family and friends  
were comfortable*

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**  
*Rock*

**MY GREATEST  
ACCOMPLISHMENT:**  
*Finishing 21 years of school*

**MY MOST PRIZED  
POSSESSION:**  
*My Dodge Durango*



“TUMBLE”



**FULL NAME/RANK:**  
*Dr. Jill Marie Slane McQuade*

**DUTY TITLE, ORGANIZATION:**  
*Researcher,  
Air Force Research Laboratory*

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,  
WHAT DO YOU DO?:**  
*I am a neuroscientist*

**BIRTHDAY:**  
*March 28, 1975*

**HOMETOWN:**  
*Dublin, Ohio*

**FAMILY STATUS:**  
*Married*

**PERSONAL MOTTO:**  
*“Hope for the best,  
prepare for the worst”*

**HOBBIES:**  
*Rugby, SCUBA diving,  
photography*

**PET PEEVE:**  
*Why my “J” is left uncrossed,  
bad grammar*

**I JOINED THE CIVIL SERVICE  
BECAUSE:**  
*I was working as a contractor and  
when the position came open it  
suited me well and will make  
finding future work easier when my  
husband PSCs*

**FIVE-YEAR GOAL:**  
*Find a way to continue working in  
some capacity while starting a  
family.*

**ULTIMATE GOAL:**  
*A happy family*

**F I WON THE LOTTERY:**  
*Buy some land for a rugby pitch  
and a clubhouse.*

**FAVORITE MUSIC:**  
*Anything mellow*

**MY GREATEST  
ACCOMPLISHMENT:**  
*Saving the lives of many dogs and  
cats working at an animal shelter*

**MY MOST PRIZED  
POSSESSION:**  
*My photo albums*





# Brooks Small Business Office director honored with Air Force award

By Martie Cenkci

Brooks Small Business Office

Mary Urey, the director of the Small Business Office at Brooks City-Base, has been honored by the Secretary of the Air Force with a special recognition award for her initiatives in the Small Business area.



Mary Urey

The award, which was presented in Washington, D.C. in April, cites her superior achievements and innovative business practices that are “unprecedented in the acquisition community for promoting small business outreach.” The award was presented by Charlie Williams, Jr., the deputy assistant Secretary for Contracting, Office of the assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition.

This newest award for Urey, who has numerous career awards and recognitions, highlights the Air Force-wide impact of her endeavors. The award specifically notes her work with the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, which awarded six small business firms, three of which were women-owned, with \$400 million ceiling and a \$1 billion potential ceiling contracts. AFCEE is also located at Brooks City-Base.

Additionally, her guidance to AFCEE led to an award of 27 Worldwide Environmental Remediation and Construction contracts with a \$4 billion ceiling and a \$10 billion potential ceiling; 16 of the WERC contracts went to small businesses, and four of those small business contractors are supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Urey is also honored as an “inspirational

advocate” for the Air Force Mentor-Protégé program, which recently won half of the Department of Defense Nunn-Perry awards for 2004.

“I have had great mentors within the contracting and small business community,” Urey said. “I believe in hard work myself, and I realize that I would not have received this award if it were not for the hard work and support of everyone in the Small Business Office. I am extremely fortunate to have the best staff in the world.”

Urey began her Air Force career as a Palace Acquire Intern at what was then Kelly AFB in San Antonio in 1989. She moved to Brooks in 1993, where she was a contract specialist and later a procurement analyst in the environmental contracting division. Urey also served as the branch chief of the aircrew protection contracting branch in the Systems Program Office at Brooks before moving to serve as the director of the Small Business Office.

Urey has been a strong advocate for small businesses and believes that small business can accomplish big initiatives.

“Too often people think that small business equals small capability. That is not the case at all,” she said. “Small businesses are capable of doing anything large businesses are capable of doing, and with lower costs and a lot less red tape.”

Urey holds a bachelor’s degree in business management and a master’s degree in procurement and acquisition management.

## Leaders defend BRAC recommendations *from page 1*

man-hours while their staffs devoted tens of thousands of hours more,” he said. When the recommendations came to him for approval, the secretary said, he approved them intact.

Those recommendations would close 33 major bases and realign 29 others out of some 318 major bases in the United States. “They would close a bit less than 10 percent of major U.S. military facilities and realign some 9 percent if the recommendations are approved,” Rumsfeld said.

The secretary explained that the number of closures and realignments is smaller than many people expected. He said this is in part because of the consideration of military surge capability, an increase in active duty end-strengths and the DoD plan to bring about 70,000 servicemembers back from overseas bases.

The chairman said the imperative is for the U.S. military to transform to meet the challenges of today and those of the future. BRAC is not a “stand-alone event,” Myers said to the commissioners. He urged them to view the

process as rooted in the new National Defense Strategy and National Military Strategy. He said the department’s Global Basing Strategy also helped inform the decision. Finally, he said the Quadrennial Defense Review also helped DoD decisionmakers.

Since the recommendations became public, many people have asked why the department is closing bases in a time of war. “The answer is because the changes are essential in helping us win in this conflict,” Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said the changes - if adopted by the commission, the president and ultimately, the Congress - will help relieve stress on the military, will allow forces to work more jointly, better protect the forces and help to properly equip U.S. troops. “We must do all that we can to identify and remove all the excess that exists to be better able to address those pressing needs to help the warfighter,” Rumsfeld said.

Ultimately, the warfighter and the American taxpayer benefit from the base realignment and closure process, the secretary said.



Defense Dept. photo

**Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, left, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, right, swear in before testifying before a Senate committee about the Defense Department’s Base Realignment and Closure recommendations**



# Golf champion soars on ‘a wing and a prayer’

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

His golf game continues to soar, albeit on ‘a wing and prayer.’ For 311th Human Systems Wing Chaplain Alan Pineault knows, that by being obedient to God’s calling for him to serve in the Air Force, has reaped an unintended reward. His Air Force ministry has allowed him to experience greener pastures of a temporal kind as one of America’s top military golfers.

Last month, Chaplain Pineault enhanced his already substantial golf resume by winning the San Antonio Greater Senior Men’s Amateur Championship. His victory is considered no small feat. By winning, he bested past tournament champions including Brooks City-Base postmaster Adolph Trevino who previously won the event four times (1995-97, 1999) and 311th Human Systems Group’s Mike Arnold who won it in 1998 and 2003.

“The reason I can enjoy golf so much is because of the wonderful ministry I have as an Air Force chaplain. I firmly believe in doing what God wants me to do. Golf is icing on the cake,” he confessed.

Years before Tiger Woods was born, this 57-year-old Massachusetts native had neither a drive to serve the Lord nor anything resembling a good golf drive. He was years away from being interested in the physics of a perfect golf swing while initially pursuing an undergraduate degree in physics. However, God had other plans for him.

“In my junior year, I accepted Christ,” he says of the life-changing experience. By 1978 he was pasturing a small church near the Vermont-Canadian border. “In 1982, a parishioner talked me into playing a round of golf. I hadn’t played since 1969,” he said.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**311th Human Systems Wing Chaplain Alan Pineault examines a scorecard from last year’s Military Invitational Golf Championship at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Fla. He finished tied for 13th at the event in 2004, and tied for 14th this year.**

This Baptist preacher had had very limited experience on the links during a high school sports career that included varsity baseball, football and basketball. He learned about the game from his father Alfred who was a professional sportsman as a harness horse racing owner and trainer.

When Pastor Pineault had finished the par-5 18th hole at the Newport Country Club course in Vermont, the future links champion was hooked on the sport. “The panoramic beauty was breathtaking,” he remembers, noting that day was the beginning of his amateur golf career.

By 1984 he had improved enough to win his first match play tournament. He

subsequently pursued a full-time ministry as an Air Force chaplain that led to greater opportunities to excel in golf. In 1988, he was invited to compete in the Strategic Air Command tournament, placing third in the senior division at age 40. He later played in the Air Force tournament as a SAC team member.

During the early 1990s he had elevated his game to a higher level, becoming a scratch player or better. From 1993 to 1995 he dominated the sport at Kadena AB, Japan, winning the base champion once and finishing as runner-up twice.

In 1996 while assigned to Pope AFB, N.C., Chaplain Pineault was invited to play for the Air Combat Command team in the

Challenge Cup at Eglin AFB, Fla., against the Royal Air Force team. That experience led to the ‘Holy Grail’ of golf – playing at the sport’s birthplace at St. Andrews, Scotland in 1999 as part of a Ryder Cup-style series of matches. “I was the only undefeated player in the matches at 5-0. It was a thrill to play golf with the Brits,” he says. Sandwiched in between the matches against his British rivals state-side and in Scotland was a Pope AFB base golf title that he won in 1997.

He began to dominate the amateur golf circuit in 1999 while stationed at Cannon AFB, N.M. That year, he won the Eastern New Mexico Senior Golf Association Championship by 16 strokes and also won the Clovis Pro-Am as well as the Farwell Country Club championship. Transferring to Kirtland AFB, N.M. didn’t cool down the chaplain’s torrid game.

He considers 2001 his most successful year in golf. He won his first major state title as Sun Country Publinks tournament champion, was the AFMC tourney’s senior division champ, helped the Air Force golf team win the interservice championship and coached the U.S. Armed Forces golf team to an international championship against the Canadian and South African national teams.

He won his last military title in 2004 as Lackland AFB base champ. “I have had a very good amateur career. I’m very blessed,” he says of his run that includes five holes in one. His age and bouts of arthritis have extinguished any thoughts he might have had of a pro career on the Senior PGA tour. What he is inclined to do now is pass on his knowledge of golf to youngsters as a golf mentor and coach.

Says he of his initial career interest as a physicist, “It’s amazing how much physics is involved in a golf swing. (For me) it wasn’t a wasted education.”

## Brooks golfers finish seventh at Jacksonville tournament

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

The Brooks golf team placed a respectable seventh in a field of 21 teams at the 41st Annual Military Invitational Tournament held at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Fla. May 10-13.

The Pentagon team defended its title by repeating as champions in what many consider the Department of Defense’s version of the U.S. Open.

“I was very pleased by how we did (as a team),” said Lt. Col. Alan Pineault, 311th Human Systems Wing chaplain who anchored the Brooks squad that also consisted of team captain Tech. Sgt. James Barfield from the Brooks Clinic, Tech. Sgt. Jeff Mylar from 311th HSW and Tech. Sgt. Tom Ray from the 311th Communications Squadron. While the Brooks players had previously participated in this tournament, it was the first time they had competed in it as a team.

“The play was a bit better this year. The (playing) conditions were tougher. The greens were not as consistent,” the chaplain explained about competing on the par-71 and par-72 courses. “I shot five shots better this year, but finished tied for 14th or 15th overall. Last year I finished tied for 13th,” Lt. Col. Pineault recalls. In the four-round, scratch play tourney, he fired 76, 73, 79 and 78. His teammates were not far behind him, with Tech. Sgt. Mylar firing his tourney best rounds of 78 and 79 while Tech. Sgt. Ray shot three rounds of 82.

The only downside for the team was its captain who couldn’t finish the final round due to an injury. “James Barfield hurt his neck and didn’t play the last day,” Chaplain Pineault said, noting that the team captain had been doing well with two rounds of 82 before suffering the injury.

## Brooks baseball youth advance to MLB regionals

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

Several Brooks City-Base youth baseball players will advance to the regional competition for Major League Baseball’s Pitch, Hit & Run program after winning here during the preliminary round May 7.

The preliminary round champions, who will compete in regional competition later this month, are vying for a chance to play in the National Championship during MLB’s All-Star Game Week at the Detroit Tigers’ Comerica Park in July.

The local level competition at Brooks attracted more than 30 youngsters who competed in the Pepsi-sponsored program. An overall champion in each age category and champions in the hitting, pitching and running events were selected. They won the competition based on a scoring system that awarded points for throwing at least three of six pitched balls in a designated strike zone, hitting pitched balls a minimum of 50 feet and running from second to home plate in no less than 11 seconds.

In the 7-8 year-old category, Jonathan Woods was the overall champion while Joseph Flores was named pitching champion. Nine players tied for the hitting champion title and all will advance to the second round.

In the 9-10 year-old category, Zack Morgan was the pitching, hitting and overall champion. Morgan also shared the running champion title with Lauren Gallagher and Diana Alvarez.

In the 11-12 year-old category, Stephen Bratz was the running and overall champion, while Tommy Beza, Jr. and Jeremiah Moran won the pitching and hitting championship, respectively.

In the 13-14 year-old category, Jacob Moran was the hitting and overall champion, Lucas Munoz was the running champion and Jonathan Gomez was the pitching champion.



Photo by Rudy Purificato

**Seven-year-old Kwame, son of 311th HSW’s Staff Sgt. Kathryn King and former Brooks varsity basketball player Senior Airman David King, participates in Major League Baseball’s Pitch, Hit & Run competition at Brooks.**